

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1742

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SECSTATE FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, MPOL, NATO, GW

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR STRAUZ-HUPE'S MEETINGS WITH
GERMAN YOUTH GROUPS

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE EXCHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN
AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN
ON THE IMPORTANCE OF PERSUADING EUROPEAN YOUTH OF THE
VITAL ROLE THAT NATO PLAYS IN SUPPORTING WESTERN DEMO-
CRACY LED TO THE SEPTEMBER 6-9 VISIT OF AMBASSADOR
STRAUSZ-HUPE TO THE FRG. DURING HIS STAY IN BONN
AMBASSADOR STRAUZ-HUPE MET WITH SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES
OF THE YOUTH GROUPS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY PARTIES: THE
JUNGE UNION (CDU/CSU), YOUNG SOCIALISTS - JUSOS (SPD),
AND YOUNG DEMOCRATS - JUDOS (FDP). HE ENGAGED IN
SPIRITED SEPARATE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE THREE, ALL OF
WHICH HAD TO BE TERMINATED BECAUSE OF SCHEDULE LIMITA-
TIONS, LONG BEFORE THE PARTICIPANTS WERE READY TO
RETIRE. THE AMBASSADOR EXTENDED TO ALL THREE GROUPS
AN INVITATION TO COME TO NATO BRUSSELS FOR CONTINUATION
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OF THE EXCHANGE, AN OFFER IMMEDIATELY AND HAPPILY

ACCEPTED BY ALL THREE. (OTHER ASPECTS OF AMBASSADOR STRAUSSZ-HUPE'S VISIT ARE COVERED IN A SEPARATE TELEGRAM.) END SUMMARY.

1. INCLUDED IN THE JUNGE UNION DELEGATION WERE THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, THE NATIONAL VICE CHAIRMAN, AND A BUNDESTAG CANDIDATE FROM THE RUHR. THEY ASSURED THE AMBASSADOR OF THEIR SUPPORT FOR A STRONG NATO. SOME CONCERN WAS EXPRESSED ABOUT THE SPIRIT IN THE U.S. AND THE IMPLICATIONS OF SUCH EVENTS AS THE REPLACEMENT OF SECRETARY SCHLESINGER AND THE "SONNENFELDT DOCTRINE" CONTROVERSY.

2. AMBASSADOR STRAUSSZ-HUPE REPLIED THAT THE PUBLIC ATTITUDE IN THE U.S. TODAY IS MORE POSITIVE AND REALISTIC. HE REFERRED TO THE FORCES POSTURE PRESENTATION BY SECRETARY RUMSFELD AS PROOF THE U.S. WAS SERIOUS ABOUT MAINTAINING A CREDIBLE DEFENSE. HE ALSO EXPLAINED HOW THE STATEMENT OF COUNSELOR SONNENFELDT HAS TO BE EXAMINED IN ITS FULL CONTEXT, IN ORDER PROPERLY TO BE UNDERSTOOD. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT U.S. SUPPORT OF RFE AND RL SHOWS WE ARE NOT WILLING TO GIVE THE SOVIET UNION A BLANK CHECK IN EASTERN EUROPE. HE ALSO EXPLAINED THE BASIS FOR THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN BONN AND WASHINGTON CONCERNING TANK DEVELOPMENT.

3. ONE JUNGE UNION MEMBER REGRETTED THAT THE MAN IN THE STREET DOES NOT RECOGNIZE THE GROWING POWER OF THE EAST; HE ALSO CRITICIZED JUSO DEFENSE CONCEPTS. THE AMBASSADOR OBSERVED THAT DURING HIS LIFETIME HE HAD NEVER SEEN THE COMMUNISTS RETURN IN LIKE MANNER ANY UNILATERAL SELF-DENYING GESTURE MADE BY THE WEST.

4. THE AMBASSADOR FACED NINE MEMBERS OF THE JUSO SECURITY POLICY COMMITTEE IN A FRANK BUT FRIENDLY DEBATE AT SPD HEADQUARTERS. MOST OF THE JUSOS IN THIS GROUP HAVE HAD MILITARY SERVICE. THEY HAVE DEVELOPED A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM URGING STEPPED-UP EUROPEAN DISARMAMENT AND DISBANDMENT OF THE BLOCS. THEY ARGUED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT A SECURITY POLICY NOWADAYS NEEDS FAR MORE THAN MILITARY MEANS TO BE EFFECTIVE.

5. AMBASSADOR STRAUSSZ-HUPE ANSWERED THAT THE U.S. TOO SUPPORTS DISARMAMENT, AS DEMONSTRATED IN GENEVA AND VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS. REFERRING TO FIGURES OF DEFENSE EXPENDITURES AS PERCENT OF GNP, HE ASKED WHY SOVIET SPENDING SHOULD BE SO MUCH HIGHER WHEN THEY KNOW THE

DEMOCRATIC COUNTRIES OF THE WEST ARE UNABLE AND UNWILLING TO INITIATE AN ATTACK. THE AMBASSADOR ALSO QUESTIONED JUSO ARGUMENTS THAT THERE ARE DOVES IN THE MOSCOW LEADERSHIP.

6. THE JUSOS WARNED THAT A WEST EUROPEAN NUCLEAR FORCE,

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AS ADVOCATED BY ALFRED DREGGER, WOULD BE A DANGEROUS PROVOCATION TO THE SOVIET UNION. THEY DISCUSSED WITH THE AMBASSADOR IMPLICATIONS OF COMMUNIST ACTIVITY IN THE GOVERNMENTS OF ITALY, ICELAND AND PORTUGAL. IN A DISCUSSION OF THE MILITARY/INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX THE JUSOS STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF PRESS FREEDOM TO CRITICIZE AND DISCUSS THE FEASIBILITY OF LEGISLATIVE CONTROL. THEY SHOWED INTEREST IN POSSIBILITIES OF A RATIONALIZATION OF THE WEST EUROPEAN DEFENSE EFFORT AS ENVISIONED IN THE EPG REPORT.

7. THE JUSOS INQUIRED ABOUT PROGRESS IN MBFR TALKS AND

AMBASSADOR STRAUZS-HUPE DISCUSSED OUR "COMMON CEILING" ARGUMENTS WITH THEM. IN REPLY TO A JUSO SUGGESTION THAT ONE NATION LEAD THE WAY IN NATO TO BREAK THE DISARMAMENT ICE, THE AMBASSADOR REFERRED TO THE ANNUAL QUESTIONNAIRE AND THE RESPONSIBILITY OF NATO MEMBERS TO CONSULT WITH ONE ANOTHER.

8. WITH THE CONCURRENCE OF AMBASSADOR STRAUZS-HUPE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE JUSOS PREPARED A PRESS STATEMENT SUMMARIZING THEIR MEETING.

9. IN THEIR DISCUSSION WITH THE AMBASSADOR, THE JUDOS POINTED OUT THEIR INTEREST IN SECURITY POLICY IS AN OUTGROWTH OF THE CSCE DISCUSSIONS. THEY SEE PEACE AND FREEDOM AS TWIN AIMS. THEY HAD BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT NATO IN THE PAST, BECAUSE OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN VIET NAM, AND THE UNHEALTHY STATE OF AFFAIRS IN PORTUGAL, GREECE AND TURKEY. THEY SEE NATO NOW MORE IN THE LIGHT OF AN ALLIANCE OF PEACE-LOVING PEOPLES. THE JUDOS ARE PLEASED THAT THE U.S. AND THE FRG HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DEVELOP DETENTE POLICIES TOGETHER. THEY ADVOCATE EUROPEAN UNITY, AND ARE HAPPY THAT THE EARLIER DOMINANT U.S. POSITION IS CHANGING TO ONE OF REAL PARTNERSHIP. THE JUDOS CONTENDED THAT THE AMOUNT OF GNP EXPENDED ON MILITARY WEAPONS ALONE WILL NOT DECIDE SECURITY BUT THAT OTHER COMPLEX FACTORS PLAY A MAJOR ROLE.

10. AMBASSADOR STRAUZS-HUPE WELCOMED THE MORE SOBER VIEW OF THE WORLD THAT YOUTH HAS DEVELOPED IN THE PAST FEW YEARS. THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE IS THE BASIS OF EVERYTHING WE HAVE ACHIEVED, HE NOTED, ADDING THAT SURVIVAL IS SECURITY'S FIRST COMMANDMENT AND THAT WE MUST HAVE SECURITY. HE NOTED THE U.S. HAS MET WITH SOME SUCCESS IN ACHIEVING DISARMAMENT.

11. THE JUDOS AND AMBASSADOR STRAUZS-HUPE ALSO REVIEWED THE EUROPEAN YOUTH SECURITY CONFERENCE HELD IN WARSAW LAST JUNE. THE JUDOS INDICATED THIS WAS AN OUTGROWTH OF THEIR DESIRE FOR AN INTERNATIONAL EUROPEAN INSTITUTION. THEY POINTED OUT THAT THE USSR AND THREE WESTERN COUNTRIES (U.K., FRANCE AND ITALY) REACTED AGAINST THIS AT THE CSCE. THE AMBASSADOR QUESTIONED THE VALUE OF SUCH AN INSTITUTION, SINCE ALL COMMUNIST YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES ARE UNDER STRICT PARTY CONTROL.

12. AMBASSADOR STRAUZS-HUPE STRESSED THAT NATO'S TACTIC IS DEFENSIVE, WHILE THAT OF THE WARSAW PACT IS OFFENSIVE. HE AGREED THAT DEFENSE IS COSTLY. HE REPEATED

THE SECRETARY'S VIEW THAT WHILE THE WEST CANNOT HOPE TO
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CHANGE THE INTERNAL SYSTEM IN EASTERN EUROPE, YET WE
CAN SEEK TO MODIFY THEIR FOREIGN POLICY.

13. IN AN EXCHANGE ON THE OUTLOOK OF A CSCE FOLLOW-UP
MEETING IN BELGRADE, AMBASSADOR STRAUZ-HUPE SAID WE ARE
PRESENTLY OBSERVING THE SCENE, WE ARE EXCHANGING THOUGHTS
WITHIN THE ALLIANCE, WE WANT A BALANCE AND OBJECTIVE RE-
VIEW BEFORE COMMITTING OURSELVES TO A FOLLOW-UP.

14. THE FIRST POSITIVE RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR STRAUZ-
HUPE'S PRESENTATION WAS NOT LONG IN COMING. ONE DAY
AFTER HIS MEETING WITH THE JUDOS, ONE OF THEIR REPRESENTATIVES
CALLED TO INQUIRE ABOUT A FOLLOW-UP MEETING WITH
HIM NEXT MONTH WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FDP DEFENSE
COMMITTEE (BUNDESTAG, SENIOR PARTY AND JUDO REPRESENTATIVES.)

15. A DINNER AT THE HOME OF CPAO KLIEFORTH ATTENDED BY
FOUR JUNGE UNION LEADERS AND TWO BONN NEWSMEN FURTHER
CONFIRMED THE DEGREE TO WHICH THESE YOUNG LEADERS WERE
GENUINELY INTERESTED IN AMBASSADOR STRAUZ-HUPE'S INSIGHTS
INTO ATLANTIC AND EAST-WEST AFFAIRS. SEVERAL OF
THE JUNGE UNION LEADERS HAD ALREADY PARTICIPATED IN ONE

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OF THE PREVIOUS SESSIONS WITH THE AMBASSDDOR AND HAD
OBVIOUSLY ANALYZED THAT SESSION AFTERWARDS. THE UPSHOT
WAS NINETY MINUTES OF ANIMATED DISCUSSION FOLLOWING
DINNER. MUCH OF IT CONCERNED THE "PHILOSOPHY" AND/OR
"IDEOLOGY" OF THE WEST IN GENERAL AND OF THE UNITED
STATES IN PARTICULAR. THE JUNGE UNION REPRESENTATIVES
STATED THAT THEY FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO MEET EASTERN
EUROPEAN REPRESENTATIVES AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND
TO RESPOND EFFECTIVELY TO THE LATTER'S IDEOLOGICAL AND
FUTURE-ORIENTED PERSPECTIVES. THEY ADVOCATED A CLEARER
COMMITMENT TO IDEOLOGY AND FUTURE CONDITIONS ON BEHALF
OF THE U.S. AS LEADER OF THE WESTERN ALLIANCE. IN
PARTICULAR, THE MEMBERS OF THE JUNGE UNION WERE CRITICAL
OF ANY INDICATIONS THAT THE U.S. ANTICIPATED A MAJOR
FUTURE ROLE IN WESTERN EUROPE FOR "EUROCOMMUNISM."
AMBASSADOR STRAUZ-HUPE'S RESPONSES WERE HIGHLY REGARDED.
THE JUNGE UNION REPRESENTATIVES REQUESTED FURTHER
MEETINGS NOT ONLY WITH AMBASSADOR STRAUZ-HUPE BUT WITH
OTHER AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES FROM USNATO, THE EMBASSY
AND WASHINGTON.
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16. THIS TELEGRAM WAS DRAFTED AFTER AMBASSADOR
STRAUSZ-HUPE'S DEPARTURE FROM BONN.
HILLENBRAND

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Message Attributes

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